

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

NEWSLETTER

For RSPO Members

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An oxbow lake in Sabah, Malaysia - Read more about a Malaysian plantation company's efforts to conserve one (page 06)

President's Welcome Message



Dear sustainable palm oil supporters,

The second public consultation period of the draft criteria for sustainable palm oil is underway as we speak. The second draft of the criteria already contains a lot of guidance, so it becomes more and more clear how growers can meet the criteria. Special attention will have to

be given to national interpretation where necessary (West Africa may require different practices than South East Asia to meet certain criteria) and to the position and possibilities of smallholders. Reaching the vast numbers of smallholders in Indonesia and Malaysia is a challenge in itself. The RSPO Secretariat is busy with organising public forum meetings to inform people about the purpose of the RSPO and the criteria process. We have put in an application for financial support with the Dutch Embassy in Jakarta to open up a satellite office in Jakarta, so we can respond more adequately to the needs of our Indonesian members, in co-operation with IPOC. We expect to hear from the Embassy soon.

On June 23-24, a first meeting took place in London, at the offices of Tate & Lyle, to mark the start of the Better Sugar Dialogue. This is a multi-stakeholder process with growers, processors, manufacturers (soft drink companies), traders, banks and NGOs, to discuss criteria for sugar. The organisers invited me to the meeting to share the experience of the RSPO. On August 25-26, a follow-up meeting is planned for the Roundtable on Responsible Soy. Producers from Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil have confirmed their presence, producers from the USA will decide on July 26.

I will keep you informed.

Best regards, Jan Kees

RSPO

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Members of RSPO